

REMARKS

Currently claims 1-8 and 10-22 are pending in the above-identified application. By this Amendment, claim 9 is cancelled, no pending claims are amended, and no new claims have been added.

I. **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-8 and 10-22, as detailed by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed October 28, 2008.

II. **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,137,377 to Wallace et al. (hereinafter “Wallace”). By the cancellation of claim 9, this rejection is rendered moot.

III. **Conclusion**

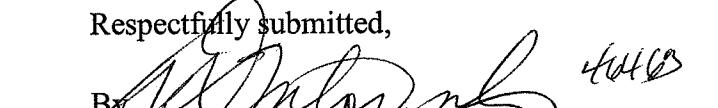
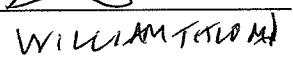
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact William D. Titcomb Reg. No. 46,463 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 14, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael K. Mutter 
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant